



Monmouth County's Leading Professional Theatre Company

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### TRTC Presents COOKIN' AT THE COOKERY, An exciting new musical play about the legendary Alberta Hunter

(Red Bank, NJ) An old adage has it that there are no second acts in American lives. The legendary blues and jazz artist Alberta Hunter is one exception. Her story is that of an intriguing and inspirational woman whose sultry voice dazzled audiences over six decades. The riveting details of her life will be told "in the key of the blues" when Two River Theatre Company presents *Cookin' at the Cookery* by Marion J. Caffey, January 17 – February 3 at the Algonquin Arts Theatre in Manasquan.

Alberta Hunter began her remarkable career collaborating with the likes of Fats Waller and Louis Armstrong. Ms. Hunter toured throughout Europe, entertained US and British troops in World War II and performed on theatrical stages in London and New York. Devastated by the death of her mother in 1956, she renounced the stage to take up work that she felt would be more meaningful for humanity. She became a scrub nurse, lying about her age to get the job and was forced to retire when the hospital thought she was 70 when, actually, she was 82!

Following her retirement from nursing, she returned to her singing career once more, performing at the legendary jazz club, the Cookery, in New York's Greenwich

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Village. With her spunkiness and salty humor, she ignited audiences. No second acts in American lives? As *The New York Times* editorialized when Ms. Hunter died in 1984 “Her [life] had three glorious ones.”

With toe-tapping standards such as *Down Hearted Blues*, *My Castle’s Rockin’*, *The Love I Have For You* and *Sweet Georgia Brown*, *Cookin’ at the Cookery* has received much critical acclaim and standing ovations in its performances in Florida, Arkansas, and Delaware. This uplifting and inspirational story will be directed by the play’s creator, Marion J. Caffey, and stars Tony Award-winner and Grammy Award-nominee, Ann Duquesnay and Broadway “triple-threat” Debra Walton. An on-stage jazz band will add to the excitement of the evening.

Tickets are on sale now for *Cookin’ at the Cookery* by Marion J. Caffey at the Algonquin Arts Theatre, 171 Main Street, Manasquan, NJ, running January 17 through February 3, 2002. Tickets range from \$22 to \$35, with prices varying by performance. Senior citizens receive a \$2 discount and tickets for anyone under the age of 26 are \$11. Please note that discounts do not apply for Saturday evening performances. A special matinee has been added for Wednesday, January 30, 2002 at 1:00 pm where groups of 10 or more and senior citizens attend for only \$17 per person. For more information, call 732-345-1400 or visit TRTC online at [www.tworivertheatre.org](http://www.tworivertheatre.org).

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